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## **Newsletter - 1982-01-21**

E. De la Garza

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# NEWSLETTER

97-831

January 21, 1982

Washington, D.C.

AGRICULTURAL AGENDA FOR 1982. With the farm bill out of the way in 1982, the House Committee on Agriculture is looking forward to proceeding with many new and important projects.

Budgetary deliberations, however, will continue to occupy a good portion of our time. Under the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 we are required by the middle of March to recommend to the House Budget Committee a budget for the Department of Agriculture and other agencies under our jurisdiction for fiscal year 1983. This is part of the congressional budget resolution process, which culminates with the passage of budgets for all agencies of the federal government.

In other areas, movement is due on the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). A FIFRA bill governing pesticide control was reported to the House last year, but since then Committee members have discussed further legislation affecting this area.

A bill to reauthorize the Commodity Futures Trading Commission also needs our timely attention. The CFTC regulates the activities of the agriculture futures industry just as the Securities and Exchange Commission regulates the stock market. The Commission's authority runs out this year.

In addition, the Committee must set lending ceilings for the Farmers Home Administration for the next three years and must reauthorize the food stamp program.

Hearings on my food safety bill, H.R. 4014, also are anticipated. My bill is an attempt to get the issue of food safety before the American public, aiming for an indepth assessment of the risks to health posed by substances in food.

As the year progresses, the Committee undoubtedly will come across many more issues needing to be addressed. The issues mentioned here will keep us busy for a long while.

\* \* \*

REPORT ON REGULATORY REFORM. As a supporter of a number of bills seeking to rid the government of burdensome, costly and unnecessary federal regulations, I was encouraged to read a summary of a report released recently by Vice President George Bush, who headed a task force on regulatory relief.

The summary mentioned Executive Order 12291 as one of the Administration's

contributions to regulatory relief. The order requires federal agencies to base regulations on adequate evidence that potential benefits to society outweigh potential costs to society. The order also requires notices of proposed and final rules to be reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget before being published in the Federal Register, the publication put out each working day that announces new federal regulations and regulatory actions. Maybe this is why the Federal Register has been getting slimmer recently.

The regulatory relief task force is reviewing or plans to review 100 existing regulations and paperwork requirements. Thirty of the regulations under review deal with environmental rules, 24 are connected with health and safety, eight are equal opportunity regulations and 13 are regulations affecting prices or output in particular industries.

The summary states that the Department of Agriculture is expected to reduce the National School Lunch Program reporting burden by an estimated 30 percent this year, and announces that certain steps are being taken to avoid harassment in regulatory enforcement.

While I am glad to see that action is being taken, what the Administration has done is just a drop in the bucket. Many of the ideas that have been put into action so far have been discussed previously by Congress. I will continue to support legislation for responsible and necessary regulatory relief and will continue to value your comments and ideas about this issue.

\* \* \*

EXIMBANK HOTLINE. Small business exporters with questions or problems related to financing of exports and other areas involving exports now can call a toll-free hotline for assistance.

The U.S. Export-Import Bank (Eximbank) recently announced the hotline number. Eximbank feels that financing arrangements can be just as important in cementing an overseas sale as price, quality of product and delivery terms. Therefore, the agency is assisting small businesses in the search for competitive export credit and other effective marketing techniques.

The hotline number is 800/424-5201. We hope it answers when you call.

\* \* \*

VISITORS FROM HOME this week were: Charles Kamasaki of McAllen; Gilbert Acuna of Kingsville; Hilario G Diaz of San Juan; and Mike de los Santos, formerly of Weslaco.

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